

Message Text

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NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /132 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2898

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 5736

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-81

TAGS: MARR, GW, NATO

SUBJ: BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION

REF: BONN 16807 NOTAL.

SUMMARY. DURING DPC MEETING NOVEMBER 27, FRG PERMREP ANNOUNCED THAT THE FRG WILL APPROVE PRINCIPLES OF NEW FORCE STRUCTURE FOR THE BUNDESWEHR ON NOVEMBER 28 AND THAT FRG MOD WILL DELIVER A STATEMENT ON THE RESTRUCTURING TO THE BUNDESTAG ON NOV 29. END SUMMARY.

1. AT DPC MEETING NOVEMBER 27, FRG PERMREP KRAPF ANNOUNCED TIMETABLE FOR AND SOME DETAILS OF BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION. HE STATED THAT FRG MOD WILL ADDRESS THE BUNDESTAG NOVEMBER 29 AND OFFERED DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE REORGANIZATION TO POLITICAL AND MILITARY BODIES OF NATO. SYG SUGGESTED THAT
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BRIEFING BE HELD AFTER THE DECEMBER MINISTERIALS BUT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

2. TEXT OF FRG PERMREP'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS. TEXT OF MOD'S

STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT POUCHED TO ACTION ADDRESSEES, AMEMBASSY
BONN, USNMR SHAPE, AND USCINCEUR. QUOTE.

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
ON THE NEW FORCE STRUCTURE OF THE BUNDESWEHR

IN ITS STATEMENT OF 18 JANUARY 1973, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
ANNOUNCED A NEW FORCE STRUCTURE. AT THE MEETING OF NATO
DEFENCE MINISTERS ON 6 DECEMBER 1972, THE FEDERAL MINISTER
OF DEFENCE, REFERRING TO THE REPORT SUBMITTED ON 17 NOVEMBER
1972 BY THE INDEPENDENT FORCE STRUCTURE COMMISSION OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROMISED THAT THE ALLIES WOULD BE CONSULTED
ABOUT THE DECISION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE
NEW FORCE STRUCTURE. DURING THIS YEAR'S PREPARATORY WORK
WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE BUNDESWEHR THE NATO
COMMANDS HAVE BEEN CONTINUALLY KEPT INFORMED.

AT THE DIRECTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT I HEREBY INFORM
YOU AS FOLLOWS:

ON 28 NOVEMBER 1973 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL APPROVE
PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW FORCE STRUCTURE. THE FEDERAL MINISTER
OF DEFENCE WILL INITIATE THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE BY DE-
LIVERING A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IN THE BUNDESTAG ON 29 NOVEMBER
1973. I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU THE TEXT
OF THAT GOVERNMENT STATEMENT AND TO REQUEST THAT THE FORMAL
PROCEDURE OF CONSULTATION ON THE FULFILMENT OF OUR MILITARY
COMMITMENTS TO NATO IN THE EVENT OF A CHANGE IN THE FORCE
STRUCTURE BE INITIATED. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT
THE FULFILMENT OF OUR MILITARY COMMITMENTS WILL BE POSITIVELY
INFLUENCED BY THE NEW FORCE STRUCTURE AND THAT THE LEGISLATIVE
MEASURES REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN CAN BE ENACTED IN THE COURSE OF
THE LEGISLATIVE PERIOD OF THE PRESENT BUNDESTAG.

LET ME PRESENT THE MAJOR REASONS WHY THE FORCE STRUCTURE
COMMISSION, THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE BUNDESTAG, AND THE
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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDER DECISIVE STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO
BE NECESSARY.

AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASING COST OF EQUIPPING AND OPERA-
TING ARMED FORCES THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PORTION OF THE
DEFENCE BUDGET OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS
DECLINED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. IN THE LONG RUN THIS
TREND NOT ONLY JEOPARDIZES THE NECESSARY MODERNIZATION OF
EQUIPMENT; THE ARMED FORCES WILL ALSO FIND IT INCREASINGLY
DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION ASSIGNED THEM UNDER
NATO'S STRATEGY. THUS, IF NOTHING IS SHANGED, THEY WILL IN
FUTURE NO LONGER BE ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR SECURITY MISSION.
BECAUSE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS

DETERMINED TO ADOPT A NEW FORCE STRUCTURE DESIGNED TO
KEEP OPERATING COST DOWN TO THE BENEFIT OF MODERN
EQUIPMENT, IN ORDER THAT THE ARMED FORCES REMAIN FULLY
RESPONSIVE. THE REFORM OF THE BUNDESWEHR FORCE STRUCTURE
WILL NOT AMOUNT TO A REDUCTION OF COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS BUT
WILL LEAD TO THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF
PERSONNEL AND THE MODERNIZATION OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
THE ARMED FORCES WITH NECESSARY FUNDS, THAT IS FUNDS
EQUAL TO THE REAL VALUE OF THE CURRENT DEFENCE BUDGET.

REFERRING TO THE TEXT OF THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TO BE
DELIVERED TO THE BUNDESTAG ON 29 NOVEMBER 1973, WHICH
HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO YOU, I WOULD NOW LIKE TO
SUMMARIZE HERE THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE NEW
FORCE STRUCTURE:

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 5736

1. THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES ACCORDING TO
ARTICLE 87 A OF THE BASIC LAW WILL CONTINUE TO BE 495,000.
THIS IS THE PEACETIME STRENGTH. IN THE FUTURE, PART OF
THIS PEACETIME STRENGTH WILL BE PROVIDED BY SERVICEMEN
IN READY RESERVE STATUS. IN THIS MANNER, THE NUMBER OF
MEN ON ACTIVE DUTY CAN BE REDUCED.

2. CONSCRIPTION IS THE BASIS OF OUR DEFENCE EFFORTS. THE LENGTH OF BASIC MILITARY SERVICE WILL CONTINUE TO BE 15 MONTHS. THE NUMBER OF CONSCRIPTS INDUCTED WILL BE DETERMINED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FORCES. THE SELECTION OF MEN FOR INDUCTION WILL BE BASED ON THEIR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL FITNESS, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND JOB EXPERIENCE. THE MANPOWER STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO RELY HEAVILY ON VOLUNTEERS.

3. A NEW FORM OF READY RESERVE WILL PERMIT THE IMMEDIATE
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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FULL OPERATIONAL READINESS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PEACETIME.

THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE READY RESERVE IS TO BE DRAWN UPON WILL REST WITH THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENCE, AS IT HAS IN THE PAST. THE RECALL PROCEDURE WILL BE SIMPLIFIED. MEMBERS OF THE READY RESERVE WILL BE CALLED UP FOR ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING.

4. THE PRINCIPLES OF MAINTAINING - IN ALL THREE SERVICES, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE ARMY - SOME OF THE UNITS AT ONLY CADRE-STRENGTH ENABLES THE NUMBER OF SERVICEMEN ON ACTIVE DUTY TO BE VARIED WITHOUT THE NUMBER OF UNITS HAVING TO BE REDUCED.

CADRE-STRENGTH UNITS WILL BE ESTABLISHED UP TO BATTALION LEVEL. THE IMMEDIATE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF THE COMBAT AND COMBAT SUPPORT UNITS WILL NOT BE IMPAIRED.

5. THE BUNDESWEHR MUST BE OPERATIONALLY READY, I.E. ITS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY MUST BE SUCH AS TO ENABLE IT TO PERFORM ITS MISSION AS AN INSTRUMENT OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE HANDS OF THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. MOREOVER IT IS TO DIMINISH THE THREAT OF A TACTICAL SUPRISE ATTACK AND IF NECESSARY - TO DEFEND THE TERRITORY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TOGETHER WITH THE ALLIED FORCES.

6. EVEN IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 1970S AND IN THE 1980S THE DEFENCE BUDGETS MUST BE SUCH AS TO ENSURE THAT THE ARMED FORCES REMAIN MODERNLY EQUIPPED. THE EQUIPMENT OF THE BUNDESWEHR MUST BE MATCHED TO ITS DEFENCE MISSIONS AND WARTIME STRENGTH. THESE WILL DETERMINE BOTH THE NATURE AND VOLUME OF ITS EQUIPMENT.

7. JOINT TASKS WILL BE CENTRALIZED. THE COMMAND STRUCTURE WILL BE STREAMLINED. ORGANIZATIONAL COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES NO LONGER REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF THE ADAPTATION OF THE MILITARY STRATEGIC CONCEPT TO NATO STRATEGY WILL BE DISBANDED. SIMILARLY, THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE ARMY WILL BE ADJUSTED TO MEET THE TECHNIAL

REQUIREMENTS OF THE 1980S.

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TO SUMMARIZE: WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO CREATE A FORCE STRUCTURE WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN IMMEDIATELY OPERATIONAL COMBAT UNITS IN ALL THREE SERVICES AND TO ACHIEVE A HIGH QUALITY OF EQUIPMENT THAT WILL MEET THE TECHNOLOGICAL STANDARDS OF THE 1980S.

WITHOUT INCREASING THE VOLUME OF PERSONNEL AND MAJOR EQUIPMENT 36 ARMY BRIGADES WILL BE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR NATO OBLIGATIONS. BY REDUCING PART OF THE UNITS UP TO BATTALION LEVEL TO CADRE STRENGTH THE ACTIVE PEACETIME STRENGTH WILL BE LOWERED. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WILL BE NO REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF COMBAT READY UNITS ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA OF MC 55/2 OWING TO THE PROPOSED NEW KIND OF READY RESERVE.

THE MERGER OF THE ARMY FIELD FORCES AND THE TERRITORIAL ARMY WILL BE CONTINUED. THE COMMAND STRUCTURE WILL BE STREAMLINED. TO THIS END, THE ARMY FIELD FORCES AND THE TERRITORIAL ARMY WILL BE COMBINED IN THREE GENERAL COMMANDS AND THE HAMBURG/SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN COMMAND. THE TWO TERRITORIAL COMMANDS, TERRITORIAL NORTHERN COMMAND AND TERRITORIAL SOUTHERN COMMAND, WILL BE MAINTAINED.

IN A DEFENCE EMERGENCY THE CORPS COMMANDS WILL BE DETACHED FROM THESE PEACETIME COMMANDS AND ASSIGNED TO NATO.

COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION OF NEW BUNDESWEHR WILL HAVE A RATHER MORE BALANCED COST STRUCTURE AND WILL THEREFORE BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO MODERNIZE ESSENTIAL WEAPON SYSTEMS. THEREBY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MAINTAIN HER DEFENCE CONTRIBUTION AT THE PRESENT LEVEL IN TERMS OF BOTH VOLUME AND COMBAT VALUE.

IN 1974 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE IN THE BUNDESTAG THE LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE BUNDESWEHR.

THE NEW FORCE STRUCTURE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED STEP BY STEP. THE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE ENSURED THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS OF REORGANIZATION. BY 1978 THE

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ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE FORCE STRUCTURE WILL BE COMPLETED.

FINALLY, I CAN INFORM YOU THAT THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WILL BE GLAD TO HAVE A TEAM OF FORCE STRUCTURE EXPERTS EXPLAIN THE NEW FORCE STRUCTURE OF THE BUNDESWEHR TO THE

POLITICAL AND MILITARY BODIES OF NATO IN DETAIL.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENTS OF THE
INTENTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT AND TO REQUEST THAT THE USUAL
CONSULTATION PROCEDURE BE INITIATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CON-
DUCTING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A MILITARY EVALUATION OF THE
STRUCTURAL MEASURES WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

UNQUOTE. RUMSFELD

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